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Police

Distribution of shorthand-writers now stationed at Vellore.

* 445 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the C.I.D. shorthand-writers are stationed at Vellore and sent to different districts at considerable travelling expense; and

(*b*) whether the Government contemplate distributing and stationing the shorthand-writers at different district headquarters?

A.—(*a*) The Shorthand Bureau is attached to the Provincial Training School, Vellore; the staff are deputed for shorthand work in the districts as necessity arises and draw ordinary travelling allowance.

(*b*) It was decided in 1919 that the balance of advantage favoured the concentration of the shorthand staff at Vellore in preference to distributing it over the districts. The Government have re-examined the question and consider that the advantages of concentration of the staff at Vellore definitely outweigh any small saving in travelling allowance that might be effected by distributing the staff among various centres.

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar:—" May I know whether this question will be considered by the Retrenchment Committee? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—" I am afraid that question must be put to my hon. Colleague, the Finance Member."

Alleged counter-propaganda by Revenue officials of Godavari East, Godavari West and Kistna districts regarding Re-settlement.

* 445-A *Q.*—Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have issued any orders to the District Magistrates of West Godavari, East Godavari and Kistna to instruct village officers and ryots not to join the Ryots' Association;

(*b*) whether the Government are aware of the fact that Revenue Officers in Gudivada and Bezwada taluks are coercing village officers and ryots to resign from the Ryots' Associations;

(*c*) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Revenue Officers of Ellore taluk are going about in the villages stating that the ryots can afford to pay the taxes;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the Revenue officials with the help of a handful of persons held a meeting in Ellore on the 18th instant to carry on counter propaganda on Re-settlement problem;

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(*e*) if so, whether it is a fact that the Revenue Divisional Officer presiding at the meeting prohibited some ryots and others to speak;

(*f*) whether the Government are aware of the recent arrest of Mr. D. Narayana Raju, Ex-M.L.C., member of the Economic Enquiry Committee and four others; and

(*g*) whether there are any instructions to Revenue officials to carry on counter propaganda on the Re-settlement propaganda? [a]

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No.

(*c*) No. The Government are however aware that Revenue Officers are endeavouring to correct misrepresentations made as to the effect of the orders of the Government regarding the resettlement.

(*d*) A meeting was held at Ellore on October 18th and presided over by the Revenue Divisional Officer.

(*e*) Not so far as the Government are aware.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) Yes. A leaflet on the subject has been sent to the Collectors for distribution in the villages. A copy [a] of the leaflet is attached.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" The Government say that they do not have any information regarding this question, as to whether the Revenue Divisional Officer presided at the meeting and prevented certain people from speaking. Will the Government call for the information? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I do not think it is necessary to call for information."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know if Government is aware that Mr. D. Narayana Raju who was once our Colleague here was arrested at a public meeting presided over by the Divisional Officer? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Yes, I understand that he was arrested? "

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know under what section he was arrested."

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I must ask for notice of the question."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know if Government is aware that at a public meeting where everybody was allowed to attend and which was held to consider a public question, some people alone were not allowed to interject by the presiding Revenue Divisional Officer, and that five gentlemen who were members of that meeting were called up to the platform, were declared an unlawful assembly and arrested? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" This matter is *sub judice* at present."

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[a] Printed as Appendix X on pages 341–342 infra.